

devoted to a particular branch of medical science, or in one having a larger circulation than the STATE JOURNAL, an arrangement may be made by which the article can be published simultaneously in the two periodicals.

Elsewhere in the JOURNAL will be found an account of the recent meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association. It is well within the truth to say that **RELIEF IN SIGHT.** practically the only questions discussed very generally were the need

and desirability of dealing with the evils recognized in lack of uniformity of standard, and too frequent adulteration and impurity of medicines, and how a more friendly feeling between physician and pharmacist might be brought about. In regard to the former topic, it appears that the very moderate resolutions reported by the committee on a proposed National Bureau of Medicines and Foods were accepted and endorsed, practically unanimously. There seems to have been large difference of opinion as to whether the general plan suggested by the committee (published in the July JOURNAL) was the best possible plan. It is but natural that any question of such great importance should be a matter of much discussion, and the more discussion this question receives, the better; for out of much discussion may come some needed relief. That a modification of the plan mentioned, introducing such features as it has been shown are necessary, will be adopted before long, now seems reasonably sure. It seems to be conceded that things are growing worse and that eventually the correction will come in a manner not altogether desirable unless the move toward correction has its inception with those most interested in having it properly done.

When reports such as that presented by Mr. Beringer to the American Pharmaceutical Association, on analysis of phenacetin, are brought to the attention of the physician, he certainly can not be blamed for a feeling of distrust. He learns that at least one pharmacist out of 182 was guilty of filling a prescription calling for ten grains of phenacetin with twenty grains of acetanilid. How many others are equally careless and dishonest? We know that there are not many, but we also know there are some. Shall the physician specify some pharmacy where his prescription is to be filled and thus lay himself open to the charge of improperly receiving a commission from the druggist, or shall he do his own dispensing? These questions were brought up not once, but many times, at the meeting of the Pharmaceutical Association, and it was evident that the great mass of pharmacists

desire to see the line drawn between the dishonest and careless, and the honest and careful. When all interested are agreed upon the need for and the desire for some particular undertaking, it would seem scarcely possible to prevent such action. Most pharmacists are neither careless nor dishonest, but the few who are permitted to be so injure the many who are not. It is the many who are straight who will have to combine in the correction of the few who are not and who bring discredit upon all.

An admirable idea seems to have been born into the world by the New Castle County Medical Society of Delaware. It is no less than a plan for presenting things medical to the public in a truly ethical and professional manner. Statements which it may be desired to have placed before the public in the lay press are to be prepared and signed by a "press committee," and thus the personal advertising of the author prevented. It seems to the JOURNAL that such a plan has everything to commend it and little or nothing to be urged against it. To be sure, some one individual will have to do the writing for the proposed committee, but it is highly probable that in most cases the individual will be willing to sink his identity in an impersonal committee, that the result may be to the public good. Without effort one can think of many questions which it is highly desirable that the public should be enlightened upon, yet which a physician of standing would not care to publish over his signature for reasons well recognized. By all means let us have press committees of our medical societies.

There are but few county medical societies in the State unaffiliated with the State Society, and their reason for staying outside **WORK FOR EVERY MEMBER.** is very difficult to understand. No argument is required to prove the advantages of a strong State Society; its power for doing good and its undeniable influence in shaping important measures for the advantage and protection of members of the profession, are self-evident. It must therefore be presumed they are unaffiliated simply through a lack of energy, or, mayhap, a lack of harmony in their ranks; and just here is where members of the State Society may find a field for some desirable missionary work. Besides the unaffiliated county societies there are a few counties entirely unorganized, in some of which this inaction is quite inexcusable. The Board of Trustees has divided the work of infusing some life into these dormant localities, acting as counsellors each trustee having a certain section as-

signed him. The work cut out for the councilors can be done only through the assistance of energetic and willing members of the profession in these localities, who will take the initiative in the matter of organization or affiliation. There is probably not a member of the State Society who is not acquainted with at least one physician in these "outside counties," and by requesting these physicians to interest themselves in bringing the counties into the State Society, great assistance will be rendered the trustees in their work of completing organization of the entire State.

The criticism has been made by a member of the Board of Examiners that while those recently examined showed a satisfactory and even excellent knowledge of surgery, anatomy, etc., they were weak in bacteriology, only a trifle better in pathology, and apallingly bad in medicine. Is this suggestive of general carelessness in the teaching of medicine, or does it indicate a preference on the part of the student for surgery, on which field the limelight plays and where the rewards are, sometimes, quickly won? Whatever the cause, there seems little doubt that the knowledge of practice of medicine possessed by the candidates was astonishingly small.

Another appeal must be made to the secretaries of county societies to send in for publication in the STATE JOURNAL abstract reports of the proceedings of their meetings, and personal mention of their members. This feature can be made complete only by coöperation of the officers of county societies with the Publication Committee. Largely it must be a labor of love, as is also the work of the committee. The STATE JOURNAL is being issued at a considerable expense to the Society, and is not yet in a position to pay for "news." If it were a private enterprise it would be a different proposition, and correspondents would naturally expect to be paid for assisting in its production; but all members of the State Society are joint owners in the JOURNAL and all should be willing to assist in making it fulfill its mission and accomplish the purpose of its being. A few moments devoted to the preparation of monthly reports would result in furnishing members all over the State accounts of what their professional brothers are doing in the different sections, and would also be a means of promoting better acquaintance and more cordial relationships.

The JOURNAL desires to be as useful to all who practice medicine on this Coast as it can be made to be. It also desires to help, in every way possible, the practice of medicine, the improvement of medicines, and the upbuilding of the physician's first lieutenant—the pharmacist. To that end the JOURNAL has established a new department, known as the Materia Medica Department; for a fuller statement of the work outlined for this feature of the JOURNAL, see page 312.

With many protestations of disgust, but with much evident joy, publications all over the world have been publishing editorials and leaders on the "Froude-Carlyle controversy," as one brilliant editor calls it. As both men are dead and probably resting quietly and peacefully in spite of all this editorial hub-bub, such a caption seems rather startling. About as many arguments of a purely personal and delicate nature have been advanced by the proponents as have been brought forward in rebuttal, and the argument seems to be one in which each editor settles the case for himself. It is unfortunate that so little of the milk of human kindness is to be found in editorial sanctums, and that so few remember, "*De mortuus nil nisi bonum.*"

The manufacturer of pharmaceuticals is a curious genius. He suavely and blandly asks everyone to trust him; yet he has no trust whatever in his fellow manufacturer. Everything he buys from a brother of the craft who himself makes the same strenuous demand to be trusted, is assayed and frequently sent back. The retort courteous passes—quite *sub rosa*, of course—from manufacturer to manufacturer; but they all join in the chorus and sing together: "We are absolutely honest and you must all trust us." And this while they continue to make and market preparations of jabarandi containing no pilocarpin; strophanthus that is lacking absolutely in strophanthin; iodid of potassium loaded with iodate and adulterated with bromid; and so through the long, sickening list. There is some retributive justice, but not much. It is reported that the child of one manufacturer died under the administration of his own Tr. Strophanthus which he had made from the cheap seeds and which contained not a trace of the alkaloid for which it was given.